

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully solicited.

Claims 1 and 3 through 12 are pending, with Claim 1 being independent. Claim 2 has been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 1, 3 through 7, and 9 have been amended, with Claim 1 having been amended to include the features of cancelled Claim 2.

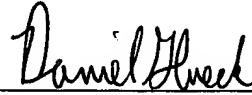
Claims 1 and 8 through 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 and Claims 2 through 7 were objected to and indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. All rejections and objections are respectfully traversed, and are submitted to have been obviated by the amendment of Claim 1 to include the features of objected-to Claim 2.

The dependent claims are also submitted to be patentable because they set forth additional aspects of the present invention and are dependent from independent claims discussed above. Therefore, separate and individual consideration of each dependent claim is respectfully requested.

Applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C.
office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed
to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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